

Inside this issue:



Mexico
page 4



Career help
page 6



Men's basketball
page 7

The Talon

Avila College 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64145 February 14, 2002 Vol. X Issue 5

Glitter Girls finish second in nation

Sara Maley
Features Editor

On Jan. 9, the Avila College Glitter Girls arrived at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. ready to compete in the Universal Dance and Cheerleading National Competition. The squad was one of 24 teams in their division and over 3,000 cheerleaders and dancers in attendance.

"You could feel the energy and excitement in the air. It wasn't just when we were on stage, but as soon as we got there. It was amazing," sophomore Liz DiGirlando said.

The 11-member squad began preparing for the event in the summer by running and conditioning. Squad members and coaches reviewed numerous tapes of teams that placed at nationals in previous years.

"We did a lot of research on past winners so we would know what the judges were looking for," Cindy Freeman, spirit squad coordinator/dance team instructor, said. "We hired a choreographer to get us started with the dance and she gave us a good starting point. From there, several of the veteran members of the team adapted the dance in order to bring out the team's strengths."

According to Freeman, the level of difficulty and the strength of the dancers technically gave the team an advantage over last year. "The quality of dancing has increased, as well as the difficulty. The girls have really good chemistry and it really shows when they perform," Freeman said. "If someone is struggling in practice, the others take the time to help her."

The Glitter Girls competed in the Open Division at the college level while at nationals. This division included NAIA, NCAA Division II and III, and junior colleges from across the nation. They qualified

for nationals by submitting a tape of the team performing the dance titled "Gangsta Mix."

"Dance and cheerleading are not sanctioned by NAIA, so we had to produce a video of the girls dancing and send it in. From there it is evaluated and determined whether we qualify for nationals," Freeman said. "Unlike other sports, we don't compete in a tournament, so there is only one chance to qualify."

The Glitter Girls scored high enough on their entry tape to bypass the preliminary rounds of competition, and performed in only one round before qualifying for finals. They entered the final round of the competition in second place, only trailing College of St. Benedict [St. Joseph, Minn.] by one point. Captain Jill Corder drew the number to determine what order the Glitter Girls would perform. She drew number one, which gave the squad a serious disadvantage over other teams in that round.

"We were so pumped. We knew it would be difficult, but we felt up to the challenge. We knew that if we were that close in semi-finals that we could really show them something in finals," sophomore Laura Wilkerson said.

The squad practiced for several hours that evening to prepare for the next day's round.

"There wasn't a very good place to practice turns so the girls went into a stairwell. They practiced their turns two by two for three hours," Freeman said.

In only their second year in existence, the Glitter Girls ended up finishing the competition in second place, five places above their finish last year.



Courtesy of C. Freeman

Glitter Girls strike a pose before their semi-final performance at nationals.

"The announcers kept not saying our name so we knew that we had done well. We were all holding onto each other so tightly that they couldn't pull us apart. They had to ask us to leave the stage so they could go onto the next awards," junior

Erin Gray said. "It wasn't the place or the trophy, it was that we had set a goal to place in the top five. We felt like we had won by getting second place."

And the winner is...

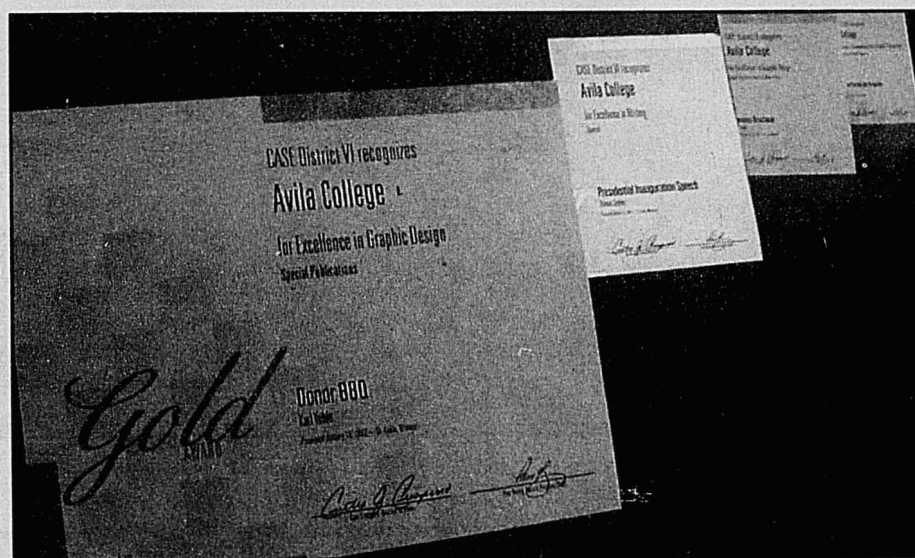
Ben Chai
Staff Writer

Avila brought home four awards from the CASE Awards Banquet held Jan. 12 through Jan. 15, in St. Louis, Mo. The awards banquet was put on by CASE, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

"There were over 130 schools represented," Karen Baum, assistant director of community relations, said. "Most schools entered a lot. We only entered 10 [pieces] and received four awards. Avila believes in excellence in education and I think we represent that value in our print pieces."

The purpose of CASE is for members to have access to information, training, and professional contacts in educational advancement. There is a yearly banquet where members can showcase their work in community relations, alumni relations, and advancement. The judges are professionals in marketing. Most colleges and universities belong to CASE. Avila is in District VI, which includes Kansas, Missouri, North Dakota, Iowa, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Colorado.

Karl Yehle, director of community rela-



E. Barnes

Avila's Community Relations Department was recognized for its achievements.

tions, said, "It is interesting that we won more awards than the University of Colorado, University of Kansas, University

of Missouri, and the University of Missouri at St. Louis, and they probably had two or three times more submissions than we did."

According to Baum, Avila received a silver award for "Excellence in Writing" for the presidential speech written by the president of Avila, Tom Gordon. They also won a gold award for "Excellence in Graphic Design" for the donor barbecue invitation, a bronze award for excellence in communications for the graduate certificate program brochure, and a bronze award for "Excellence in Graphic Design" for the theater brochure.

"It was very exciting to receive all of these awards," Baum said. "The awards ceremony is a lot like the Academy Awards. The presenter calls your name and you get to go up on stage to receive your award. It was fun going up several times."

According to Baum, Avila has a fifth award on the way. "We also won an award for the homecoming invitation, but the committee hasn't told us what that award is yet," Baum said. "It got lost in their paperwork."

Avila celebrates 85th birthday

Kathryn Stasevich
Copy Editor

An evening of elegance, food, dancing, and friends, the 26th Annual Avila College Steer Dinner and Auction will be held at the Fairmount Hotel on the Country Club Plaza on Saturday, March 9th.

"The Steer Dinner is kind of like Avila's birthday party. It is a celebration and gathering of alumni and the Kansas City community," Director of Development Serena Aernie said.

First held in 1977, the Avila College Steer Dinner and Auction is one of Kansas City's longest continually running charity auctions.

This year's celebration will include a dinner, dancing, a silent and live auction, and student speakers. Auction items will include gift baskets, dinners, vacations, and unique experiences. A new addition to this year's Steer Dinner is the inclusion of two student speakers. Six students auditioned for the part by delivering a two to three minute speech about why he/she chose Avila and what Avila means to him/her.

"It was really hard to choose a speaker; all of the students' speeches were extraordinary," Aernie said. Senior finance student Steve Rodriguez and senior corporate communication student Tekia Thompson were chosen to deliver their speeches to a crowd of alumni, community supporters, faculty,

and students.

"I am excited and honored that I will be able to be one of the speakers at the Steer Dinner. My speech focuses on Avila's spirit, and the idea that Avila is more than just a pathway to success," Thompson said.

All of the money raised at the Steer Dinner will finance next year's student scholarships. Last year's event raised \$250,000. This year's goal is \$250,000, but due to the generosity and sponsorship of local Kansas City businesses Avila has already raised \$240,000. Therefore, the Development Office has raised the bar, and set a new goal of \$312,000.

Students are invited to help make the evening a success by volunteering. "An important part of the dinner is student involvement. I challenge students to come, network, and be seen," Aernie said.

Student volunteers will help set up the hall, present auction items for bidding, mingle with guests, and clean up the hall following the event. The volunteers will receive dinner, T-shirts, \$5 toward any silent auction item, and an after-party. Interested students are asked to contact Advancement Administrative Assistant Lisa Swartz at 816-501-3602 for more information.



Courtesy of Advancement

Tekia Thompson, student speaker at the 2002 Steer Dinner, with Tom Gordon.

Gezundheit!!!

Shannon Degitz
Staff Writer

Fall, spring, and summer are the most common seasons to experience allergies. Winter is a grace period for those who have to endure the annoying effects of allergies. However, this year provided no break for those who are miserable throughout the rest of the year.

"One reason that people with allergies have suffered more this year than in previous years is that the weather has been strange," Carol Frevert, director of health and child services, said. "There has been no significant freeze to kill off the tiny particles that trigger our allergies."

Different types of allergies affect different people. According to the U.S. Food Drug and Administration, the most common cause of an allergy is pollen. Pollen is tiny particles released from trees, weeds and grasses. The particles then hook on to currents of air and make their way into people's noses and throats, which then trigger the allergies. Mold, dust, food, or animals are just a few other things that trigger allergies.

"Allergies are also affected by where a person lives. Different climates and regions affect allergies. People who live in dry climates with a lack of humidity do not have as many problems with allergies whereas people who live in wet climates and have a high humidity are greatly affected," Frevert said.

"My allergies have been worse this year than in the past. I haven't really had problems with them in the last few years until recently," Lisa Swartz, administrative assistant for advancement, said. "I think it is because we haven't had a true winter to kill all of the plants and pollens."

Senior Sherre Sichko said just the opposite. "I have allergies but they haven't bothered me as much this year as in the past. The weather does affect my allergies but for some reason they have not been that bad. I am very thankful for that!"

Allergy symptoms and cold symptoms



J. Sexton

Tissue, cold medicine, and other remedies are sometimes not enough to handle the allergy season.

are very much alike. "I have students that come to me and don't know if they have a cold or allergies. I tell them that a cold lasts for two weeks and continuous symptoms

mean that it is allergies," Frevert said.

Sneezing, itchy eyes, watery eyes, congestion, and wheezing are some symptoms of allergies. Over-the-counter drugs can

reduce discomfort. If problems persist, a doctor's visit for those with more severe allergies may be the answer.

Avila students live like rock stars

Matt Schmidt
Staff Writer

Unlike the majority of students on campus, the members of the Avila Choir have their own compact disc. They are also going on a mini-tour to support it.

Earlier this year, the Avila Choir performed Handel's "Messiah." The concert was recorded and made into a CD. On March 4, the singers leave on a three-city, four-day tour of Missouri.

Amity Bryson is the head of the choir. She had always wanted to record a CD, and now she had her opportunity.

"When Amity approached us with the idea of making a CD, we were totally for it," sophomore Lance Schmittling said. "We thought it was a really good idea."

How was the choir able to record their CD? "One of the adjuncts here also works at Kansas City Kansas Community College and has access to an amazing recording studio," Bryson said.

The choir will hit various cities along the way. Not only will they sing in Kansas City, but they will also perform in

Columbia and St. Louis. The students are thrilled to be out on tour.

"It is really cool to be able to go out and be able to sing for hundreds of different people," senior Annie Walter said. "We get to go out on the road and stay in a hotel just like real rock stars."

One of their performances will be truly memorable. In St. Louis, the choir will be performing at the Nazareth Retirement Home in front of Sister De La Salle. "She was a formidable factor in the music depart-

ment here and we have a rich history because of her," Bryson said.

"We are honored to be able to perform for Sister De La Salle while she is still able to enjoy it," senior Rachel Murphy said. "Sister De La Salle always loved the Messiah so it is awesome that we get to perform it in front of her."

The CDs can be bought from Bryson in the Music Department for \$15.



Courtesy of Amity Bryson

Avila singers warm up for the stage.

A movie to forget

Jeremy Lillig
Staff Writer

A Walk to Remember
★ (out of ★★★★★)

Rated: PG

Starring: Shane West, Mandy Moore, Darryl Hannah, Peter Coyote

"Why must I be a teenager in love?" With the issues in today's current society the trivial stupidity of light-hearted packaged films like this one looks like the dollar signs in the eyes of Hollywood producers. The latest installment of this drivel comes in the movie, *A Walk to Remember*, starring Shane West and Mandy Moore.

These two "heartthrobs" amongst 12-year-olds everywhere take on the complicated issue of true love in this simplistic version of a potentially mildly entertaining film. From the start, there is the issue of believability. The forced dialogue from the rebellious teens is very unrealistic to the modern day teenager. It takes the lackluster accident of a dare to introduce Shane West to the goody-goody, Bible-hugging classmate played by Moore.

There is a reason why teen pop stars should not make movies. The reason is their lack of talent in the field of acting.

Without posing an argument over her talent in music, acting is not the forte of Ms. Moore.

This movie takes predictable plot turns with the love story of its two stars. Then comes the kicker. The audience is presented with the information that Moore has a severe terminal medical condition (I will leave the actual condition for those who decide to waste money on this film). The fact that she is supposed to be ill just is not in the slightest bit believable. With the same ingenuous looks and demeanor, her character was as shallow as in the beginning of the film.

The end of the movie will not be divulged, but rest assured it is wrapped up in a neat package of pink wrapping paper with puppies on it and a nice little white, lacy bow. Oh, for the day when a film of this nature can actually be worth the hour and a half that it so often takes from lives that cannot be given back.

I give kudos to the cast of *A Walk to Remember* for torturing and killing the hope for an entertaining film to grace the silver screen. The stomach flu proves to be more entertaining than this film. So stay home, you'll be happier.



Shiner is: Allen Epley, Jason Gerken, Paul Malinowski, and Josh Newton

Shiner in the dark

Tyler Fox
Staff Writer

Kansas City's homegrown rock icons Shiner did not let the citywide blackout stop them from bringing rock to the tightly packed crowd at The Pub on Friday, Feb. 1. Even with 280,000 people in the Kansas City area without power or heat (members of the band included), a large crowd of faithful fans crammed into the stuffy little club on 13th and McGee.

Fans were treated to another electrifying performance in support of Shiner's latest album, *The Egg*. The band played the album as a whole at shows throughout their fall tour. *The Egg*, is a challenging and complex recording that transcends the boundary of the studio to form a cohesive and exhilarating live experience.

The Pub show was a mixture of highlights from *The Egg* and Shiner's previous studio albums that blasted raw emotion and

musicianship to anyone in earshot. Shiner combined a solid blend of both the loud and soft, while changing up the fast and slow to keep the set balanced. Throughout the night, lead singer Allen Epley bantered with the crowd, proposing drinks to those with power and without, and to all the fans for coming out amid the chaos of the blackouts.

The evening was best summed up by the news update on Shiner's official website letting fans know the show was still on: "Come drink and forget your ice-cold woes."

The Pub show is one of the last local shows Shiner will play before heading out for a western tour. Their final area show is Feb. 22 at The Bottleneck in Lawrence, Kan.

The real world: Mexico

Karen Guber
Editor-In-Chief

"When people stop being polite and start being real..." The famous tagline from MTV's *The Real World*, a show which has viewers tuning in to see what happens when people are thrown into a situation in which they have to live and work together, describes similar circumstances several Avila students encountered over the semester break.

Under the direction of Ben Meade and Sister Ruth Stuckel, students enrolled in Mexico: People and Philosophy traveled to Juarez, Mexico. Through Casas Por Cristo, a not-for-profit organization that builds homes for poor families in Mexico, the volunteers built a church from the ground up.

The work site was half an hour into the desert, a desolate stretch of land known as Kilometer 32. From laying the concrete foundation to applying the stucco finish, the project was completed in three days.

"The whole point of the trip is to, hopefully, direct some change in the student. The house, the church, that's all secondary," Meade said. "The point of the trip is to get down there and get in touch with one's self, understand a little about Mexico, the economy, the philosophy, the culture, and pick up a few things in building they've never done like picking up a saw or hammer."

So what really happens when 37 Avila students go to Juarez to build a church?

"You really get to know a lot about people and how they are," junior Kristen Donnelly said. "There were a lot of complainers. We had a lot of people that all they did was complain, where we were sleeping, the prices of things. They complained about the food being too hot, the water being too cold."

Junior Paul Oxler felt that being removed from one's "comfort zone" was one reason complaints were launched. The group had one lukewarm shower at a host church in El Paso, Texas, before crossing the border. Once in Juarez, an off and on trickle of icy water was the only available shower. According to Meade, the accommodations could have been worse. In the past, groups have gone the entire week without heat and running water.

"It's easy to fall in with everyone, complaining about showers and everything else. I had to tell myself that that's not the rea-

son we're here. We were there to build a church, but it goes beyond that. It was also to recognize who we're doing it for, the people in need," senior Megan Redenbaugh said.

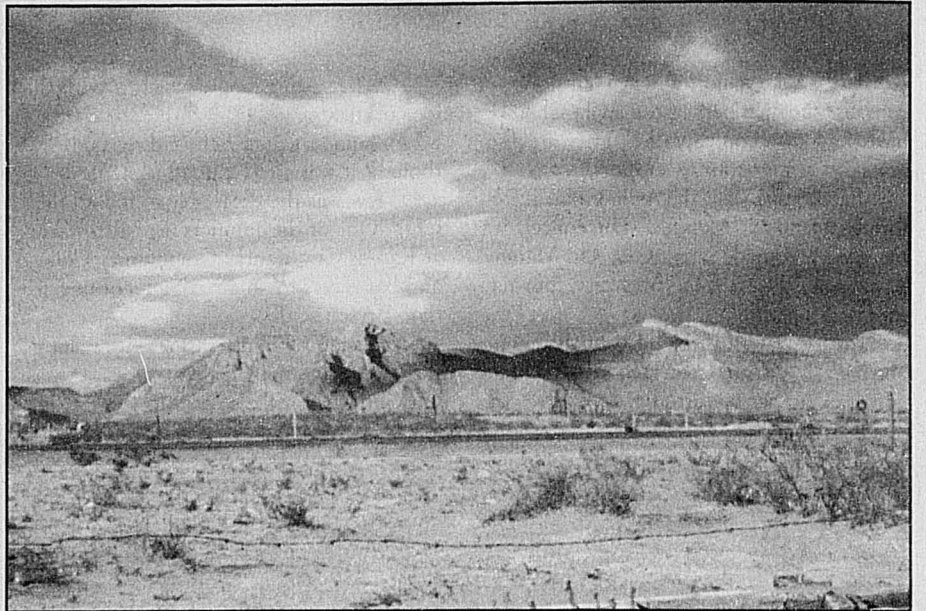
Redenbaugh felt the hardest part of the trip was not the actual construction, but "overcoming physical shortcomings in the face of male adversity. There were people that were helpful, while others would tell you how to do it. They made it seem like there were a few who could do it all by themselves. It was nice to feel needed as part of a teamwork effort."

The male participation increased considerably from last year. In 2001, the ratio was eight females to one male; in 2002 it was 3:1. Gender issues became apparent to Donnelly on the first job. "We were probably working five minutes when it occurred, when the first 'no, let me show you how to do that' came from a guy, not to me personally, but to another female. He took the hammer from her and 'showed' her how to do it," she said.

"There were a couple of guys who tried to do everything themselves. I remember thinking 'that's not right,'" Oxler said. "I helped Megan [Redenbaugh] run the circular saw, and it was hilarious. She did it exactly how it's supposed to be done."

While the trip may have spawned complaints and other issues among many of the participants, the group was more diverse than in previous years. Meade said, "The cultural diversity added some sanity to the trip. You had both Asian men and women, something not typical of past trips. I noticed people were reluctant to be as vocal about things. It may be because people were uncomfortable with each other or they may have wanted to give a good impression of who they are, but it added a calmness to it."

In the end, after the last nail was hammered and the last section of stucco was buffed, students felt they got more out of the trip than just a church. "Once you get through the drama fest, all the complainers and everything else, you realized that deep down people still care about other people," Oxler said.



Kilometer 32 was the work site chosen for this year's construction.

"You really get to know a lot about people and how they are."

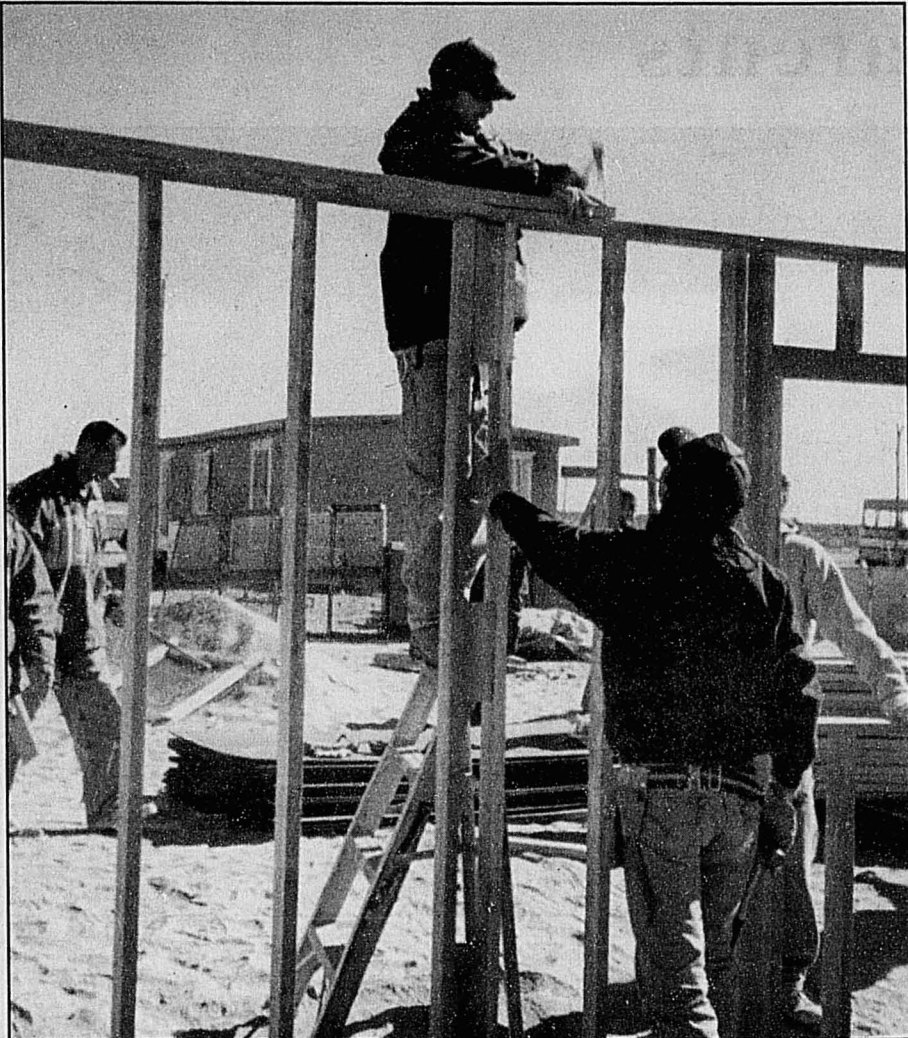


**All photos - K. Guber Megan Redenbaugh shows Paul Oxler women can use power tools.*

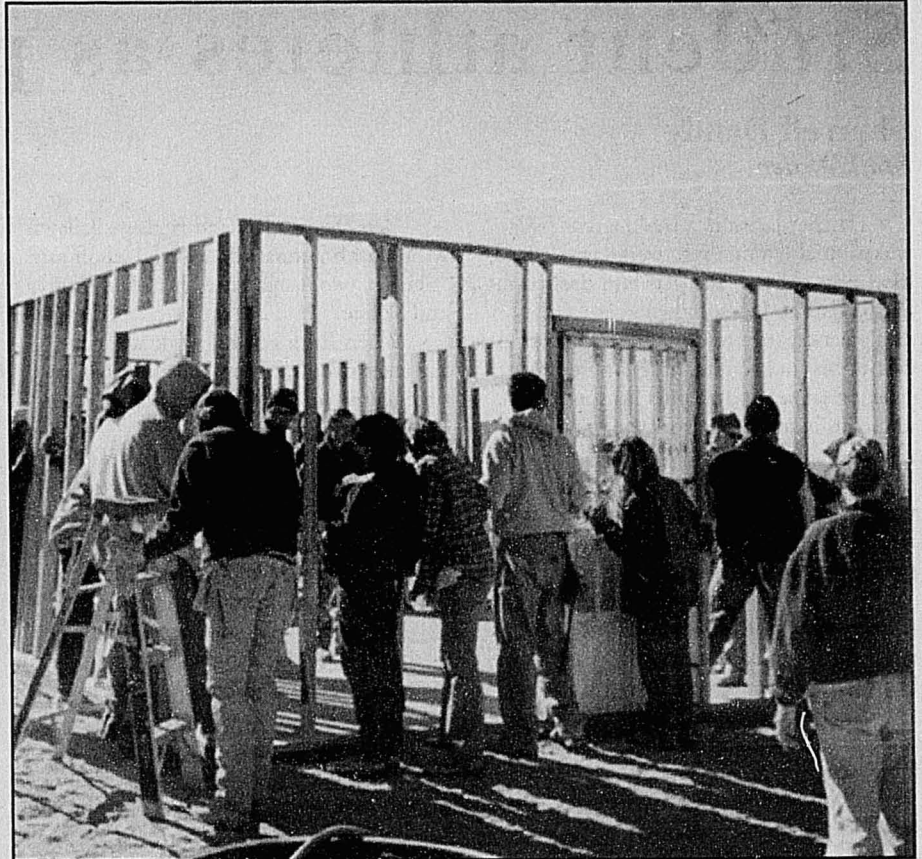


Thirty-seven students recently traveled to Juarez, Mexico as a part of Mexico: People and Philosophy.

"The point of the trip is to get down there and get in touch with one's self, understand a little about Mexico, the economy, the philosophy, the culture, and pick up a few things in building they've never done like picking up a saw or hammer."



Todd Eppert nails in a wall structure.



The group raises the final wall.



Roof trusses are added.

"Once you get through the drama fest, all the complainers and everything else, you realized that deep down people still care about other people."

News briefs

Security notice

Police are investigating a break-in that occurred on Jan. 8, 2002 in the Hodes Education Center. It is believed the same male is also responsible for a break-in in the same building in early December.

The description of the male is as follows: a white male, in his forties, approximately 6' tall with a heavy build, with a mustache, wearing a green hat and a blue jacket.

If you see a person fitting this description, contact Student Affairs office at 816-501-3627 or the police (9-11 from a campus phone).

Elimination of bus service

The Transit Authority will be reducing and/or eliminating bus service to portions of south Kansas City. The bus service to Avila is on the list to be reduced and/or eliminated.

To get more information about the proposed reductions/eliminations of service you may contact the Metro Hot Line at 816-346-0404.

Award-winning student

Andrea Downs will be honored at the Midwest Psychological Association meeting for her award-winning research on "The Relationship Between Road Rage and Narcissism." Downs will also present the same research on Student Scholar Day.



This summer, find one of the coolest jobs at one of the hottest spots in the Midwest –

WORLDS OF FUN!

MEET WITH WORLDS OF FUN RECRUITERS!

Thursday, March 21 from 11 to 1

**Avila College
Student Union**

Call 816.303.5010 for more info.

www.worldsoffun.com email – wofhr@worldsoffun.com

IT'S NOT JUST A
SUMMER JOB.
**IT'S A PAID
VACATION!**

Pay Potential
\$8.00/HOUR
(Employees 18 & over)

Flexible Schedules
Housing Allowance
Paid Internships



Student athletes as parents

Sherrell Dandy
Staff Writer

Fletcher Jackson, a freshman at Avila, wakes up at 6 a.m. every weekday. He feeds his 1 year-old son, and gets him dressed for the babysitter. Jackson then goes to class and practice, tries to do homework and take care of his son, Kaidin, at the same time. Evening comes and he puts his son to bed, and then heads off to work the graveyard shift.

Several students juggle their schoolwork, jobs, and children. They have found their own methods of dealing with the struggles of parenthood.

"My mom watches my son most of the time," Jackson said. "My sister watches him when my mom isn't around. I get occasional help from my fiancée's friend."

It is not easy getting help with children sometimes, but Jackson feels lucky to have family and friends by his side.

Junior Nick Uphoff has a similar schedule. Uphoff wakes up at 5:30 a.m. every weekday. He gets his 4 year-old daughter, Bailey, fed and dressed for day-care. His wife, Erica, takes Bailey to day-care, so he can go to class and practice. Sometimes he brings Bailey to practice with him because Erica cannot watch her.

"On Wednesdays and Fridays, Bailey is with Coach Totta's wife, Amy," Uphoff said. "She has two daughters of her own, Gentry and Sloane."

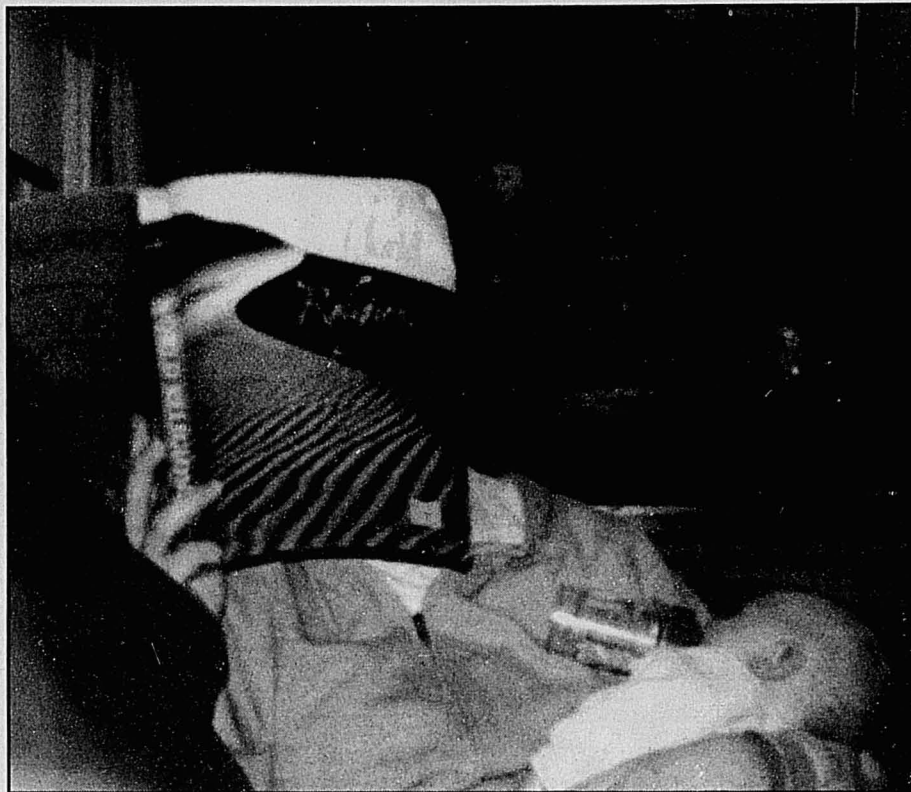
When Erica gets off work at 6 p.m., she takes over watching Bailey. They sometimes come to watch Uphoff play his basketball games.

Recent Avila graduate Patrick Young dealt with this same situation last year. He woke up at 5:30 a.m. and got his infant daughter ready for the babysitter. He went to school, practice, and games. His wife, Bethany, worked full time.

"Our basketball manager, Donetta Head, watched our daughter for me most of the time," Young said. "It's not easy. You should just keep your cool and have patience."

Though difficult, all three have found ways to deal with the struggles of parenthood.

"It's a very demanding job," Uphoff said. "Don't be shy to ask for help. You can ask your friends, relatives, or even your teammates. Most of the time, they are more than willing to help you."



J. Sexton

Student athletes with children struggle to keep up with schoolwork, while juggling practice and parenthood.

"How to Score in an Interview"

Monday, Feb. 18

12:20 - 1:45 p.m.

Dallavis, Room 800

Presenter: Emilie Rottinghaus,
Recruiting Manager, Enterprise
Rent-a-Car

Career Panel

"No Shirt, No Shoes, No Experience,
No Job: Secrets to Success"

Wednesday, Feb. 20

6:30 p.m.

Marian Center Lounge

At least five career fields will be
represented.

"Writing a Winning Resume and Cover Letter"

Thursday, Feb. 21

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Whitfield Conference Center

Presenter: Gina Frigault, Avila Career
Services

Career help is here

Liz Horsley
A&E Editor

Graduation lurks around the corner. Many seniors feel overwhelmed, and are thinking, "What now? Where do I start?" The real world is weeks away and there is a lot to be done for those looking to get a good job and a great career. Take a deep breath, relax, and read on about what Avila is doing to make the job search a little easier for students.

Career Month 2002 is in full swing thanks to Gina Frigault in Avila Career Services, and Career Services intern Chrissy Webb. They have planned a month of seminars and events that will help Avila students find a job. The programs are scheduled to take place from Jan. 30 through Feb. 26. These events cover topics such as interview skills, writing a resume, networking, and learning from a panel of professionals about what it is really like to be in a particular field.

"It's difficult to get students to realize the importance of this information. I encourage not only seniors, but all college students to try this out and start getting prepared for life after graduation," Frigault said. "Don't wait until the last minute. Avila is providing a great service during career month, and the students really need to take advantage of it."

Some of the programs have already taken place, but there are still several left this month. The events will include refreshments and door prizes such as restaurant certificates for the students who attend.

The next program is on Feb. 18, called

"How to Score in an Interview." This will cover both traditional and behavioral style interviews. The recruiting manager for Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Emilie Rottinghaus, will present again this year. "She did a great job last year during Career Month. She prepares the students for what really goes on during a job interview," Frigault said.

The Career Panel, "No Shirt, No Shoes, No Experience, No Job: Secrets to Success," is scheduled for Feb. 20. "The panel will be helpful to all levels of students, not just seniors. For those who are unsure about what to major in, the panel may be a great tool," Frigault said. The panel will consist of Avila graduates and other professionals from the fields of business, communications, social work, and psychology.

The final event, "Writing a Winning Resume and Cover Letter," is Feb. 21. The program will include sample packets and helpful hints about formatting, critiquing, and what to include and not include in a professional resume. "Many employers ask for a resume even for part-time jobs and internships. It is an important tool in landing that first job," Frigault said.

There are a lot of things to consider when starting out after graduation or looking for a new job. Avila helps make this process a smooth one by providing Career Month to its students. For more information on programs during Career Month, contact Gina Frigault at 816-501-3666, or go online to www.avila.edu.

Cupid on a budget

Jimmy Vogel
Staff Writer

It's early in the morning and your girlfriend calls, "What are we doing tonight?" she asks. Then it hits you. It's Valentine's Day and you have not so much as looked at a gift. What are you going to do?

"One time I wanted to do something great for my girlfriend, but I did not have the money. I only had enough to take her to Applebee's for dinner," senior Marty Mothersbaugh said.

Many college students find it difficult to be able to afford fancy gifts for Valentine's Day. Here are some helpful tips to have a Valentine's Day she will never forget for under \$40.

First of all, be creative with what you do. Instead of going out and buying a \$2 Hallmark card, write down what you think of your girlfriend in a poem, song, or love letter. If you find that your creative juices are not flowing, then cheat. Go to the Hallmark store and copy down a card in your own handwriting. Either way it shows her that you took the time to tell her how you feel.

As for plans for the evening, stay home. Instead of going to a loud restaurant, cook her dinner, like fettuccini alfredo. "I had a guy make dinner for me one time, and I was like 'Wow, you can cook,'" sophomore Joanna Rogers said. "It scored a lot of points in my book."

For those of you in the dorms that are not able to cook, prepare a little picnic in your room. Lighting tea light lights adds a bit of flair by creating a great candlelit atmosphere for little cost.

Entertainment Weekly recently made a list of the top romantic movies with the

1989 film, *Say Anything*, starring John Cusack, coming in at number one. Other classic romantic films include *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *When Harry Met Sally*, and the 1940s romantic comedy, *The Philadelphia Story*.

When it comes to the gift, it is hard to forget that diamonds are a girl's best friend. However, you can score more points with a gift that has some meaning behind it. Sometimes the best gifts are ones that come from the heart. Give her a blanket. Wal-Mart has throw blankets for around \$15. When she opens the gift, tell her that you wanted to cuddle with her as you watch the movie. For an added touch, spray a little bit of your cologne on the blanket. This will make her think of you every time she uses it. Just remember, be sentimental.

Another helpful hint is to find some good music to set the mood. *Maxim* magazine said in an article that the top three musicians, as voted by women, for setting a romantic atmosphere are Dave Matthews Band, Lenny Kravitz, and Maxwell.

Finally, remember to dress nicely, even if she does not. Wear the sweater she gave you for Christmas. "One time I tried to incorporate everything my girlfriend had given me into the evening," sophomore John Fox said. "It showed her I remember what she has done for me, and that I appreciate it."

So remember the main points, be romantic, keep her guessing on what's coming next, and most important, keep it simple. Just follow these guidelines and you will give her a Valentine's Day she will not soon forget.

Recipe for Fettuccini Alfredo

1 package American Beauty Fettuccini-\$2.99
1 pint heavy whipping cream-\$2.95 per half pint
1 packet 2 cups, Finley Shredded Parmesan
Cheese-\$2.39

- Prepare fettuccini as directed on package.
- Pour whipping cream into large skillet on high.
- Once boiling, stir in Parmesan cheese
(about two cups, until desired creamy texture)

- Quickly remove from heat.
- Add to fettuccini, garnish with extra Parmesan
and pepper.
- Add grilled chicken breast or shrimp if desired.
Serve with Price Chopper Bakery heat and serve
breadsticks-\$1.99

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Overcoming obstacles

Ryan Jackson
Sports Editor

Angie Meador has overcome many obstacles in her four years playing for the women's basketball team. Injuries have kept Meador sidelined and in rehab for a year.

Meador tore her ACL during a practice in January 2000. She rehabilitated her knee for several months, and in another practice in June of 2000 she tore the same ACL again.

She had to rehab for a year straight, which was tough because she could not play. While she was out with the knee injury, she served on the basketball team as an assistant coach, which made her feel a little better about the situation.

"At first it was really hard, I couldn't come and watch the team play. It made it easier to come back because I was able to help coach the post position," Meador said.

"The doctor told me that I wouldn't be able to run for awhile, and if I did, I would end up in a wheelchair by the time I turn 50," Meador said. The doctor told her if she

wanted to play with her kids in the future then she had better quit basketball.

Many people would take that to heart and hang up the jersey. Nevertheless, through courage, hard work, and determination, Meador has overcome the obstacles.

She disregarded the doctor's advice and decided to play her final semester. The first game she started since the injuries to her knee was in early January of this year.

She has been playing basketball since she was in the second grade. The game has taught her many things about life outside the court. "Playing basketball has taught me how to work with other people, how to be a team player, and the biggest thing is how to overcome adversity," Meador said.

Meador's most memorable game came this year when the team beat Missouri Valley at Missouri Valley. "That game was special, because in the four years that I have been here, we have never beaten them at their place," Meador said.



E. Barnes

Angie Meador in action.

Eagles claim national ranking

Eric Findlay
News Editor

Up by eight with three minutes to go. The nation's top team was on its heels. All the Eagles had to do was hold this lead and unbeaten Evangel would fall.

The Eagles lost by four, but showed the NAIA they deserve a spot in the national tournament. They have not reserved their spot yet, but it could be only a matter of time. Even though it will always be in the record books as a loss, the Eagles have proven they can play with the best.

After the loss to Evangel, the team feels its chances for making the national tournament are very good. "We feel very good about our chances because we played well against the best team in the country and we know we are capable of beating them. It just hasn't happened yet," senior guard Mark Whitfield said.

This season has been one to remember, according to one fan. "They are just so fun to watch this year. I mean, they have done so much already compared to the past couple years. I can't wait for the postseason to roll around," sophomore Dustin Kiger said.

Currently, the Eagles have the number 25 ranking in NAIA Division II. The team has reached 18 wins and was previously tied for second with Mid-America Nazarene University in the conference with a record of 10-3.

One reason for such a remarkable

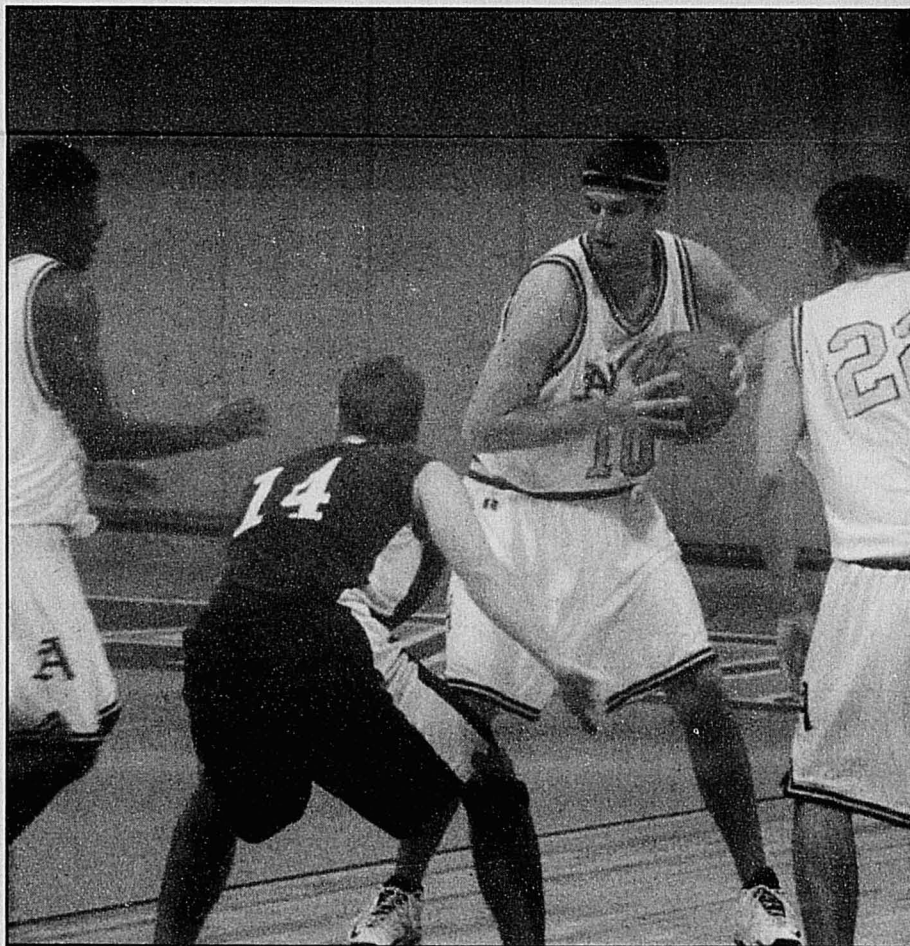
record is the play of the men in the middle, Roby Anderson and Nick Uphoff. "Our inside players have helped take some of the focus off me and Mark and they are good at finishing," senior guard Marlon Whitfield said.

Starting forward Roby Anderson feels the team chemistry and a balanced attack has been their stronghold. However, the Eagles still have some weaknesses to address before conference tournament play begins on Feb. 18.

"We need to play up to our ability all the time and put teams away when we have the opportunity," Anderson said. "We have gained a lot of respect but a lot of teams still think we are a fluke."

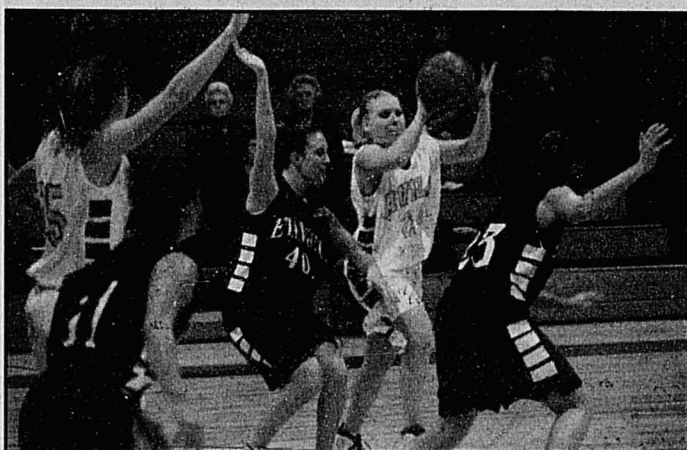
In fact, the Eagles believe they must put up similar numbers in the future if they plan to maintain this respect. "We have gained some respect, but I believe we have to be consistent year in and year out to sustain this respect," Head Coach Nick Totta said.

"It took a lot of hard work and determination to get here and now we have to work extra hard to stay here. It's going to take discipline and dedication to maintain our respect," Mark Whitfield said.



K. Guber

Roby Anderson looking to dish the ball away.



Adrienne Cook passes the ball.

K. Guber

Women's basketball

A free throw attempt by the Lady Eagles.

E. Barnes



History lesson

Ivori Johnson
Opinion Editor

"Hey would you like to come to the Black History program going on Feb. 17?" I asked.

"What's that?" she responded.

"It's a celebration of all the accomplishments African Americans have had through the talents of dance, song, dramatic monologues, and historical facts," I explained.

"Oh, um, I don't think so," she said, as she walked away. This is the basic scenario I get from students on campus.

Avila students aren't showing interest in black history programs or activities. Unless professors give extra credit or good food, we don't get people to attend. As college students we should be trying to enrich our minds culturally as well as educationally to grasp the full understanding of not just ourselves, but of everyone who makes up America.

Black history impacts all Americans. Where would we be without George Washington Carver, who invented more than 100 uses for the peanut? What about Thomas Jennings who invented dry cleaning or Morgan Garrett who invented the traffic light? Blacks have contributed to many other areas besides inventions, such as sports, music, art, science, medicine, education, space, religion, journalism, civil rights, and politics. In some instances, blacks worked together with whites or other cul-

tures in reaching these great achievements.

Most people don't even know who introduced Black History Week in 1926. It was Carter G. Woodson, a black historian, but you don't read about that in the history books. In fact, Woodson fought and debated for over 50 years before it was observed for an entire month. It's a shame that people today still aren't taking the time to educate themselves about black history, which is a major contribution to world history.

Contrary to many students' beliefs on campus, this observance is not just "A Black Thang!" Many students don't attend these programs because they're intimidated, uncomfortable, and plain not interested. But how do you know you'll feel this way? You don't know unless you try it for yourself. In fact, Avila is hosting its annual Black History Month program on Feb. 17. It will be held in Whitfield's Conference Room at 4 p.m.

Challenge yourself, Avila! Participate in as many scheduled activities that highlight and celebrate the culture and accomplishments of blacks. And besides, you just might learn something new and enjoy yourself.



E. Barnes

Posters line the hall in honor of black history month.

Campus talk

Compiled by

Ivori Johnson
Opinion Editor



What's your definition of love?

Sarah Hall
Senior, History major

That you care so much about them, that you can't live without them.



Tyler Fox
Senior, Theater/Comm. major

Love is contentment of one's self and the other person — everything else just complements



Tracy Friedeck
Senior, Biology major

Love is your heart, mind, and soul intertwined with another's as one.



Matt Schmidt
Sophomore, Comm. major

Rachel Murphy
Senior, Theater/Comm. major

Love is when you care more about your partner than you care about yourself.



Crystal Gardner
Junior, Political Science major

Love never fails and it doesn't hurt.



Stephen Huber
Director of Campus Ministry

It is "the" way to act in the world.

The Talon

Karen Guber
Editor-In-Chief

Jennifer Sexton
Advertising Manager

Megan Redenbaugh
Production Manager

Staff Writers
Ben Chai, Sherrell Dandy,
Shannon Degitz, Tyler Fox,
Jeremy Lillig, Matt Schmidt,
Jimmy Vogel

Kathryn Srastevich
Copy Editor

Steve Iliff
Faculty Adviser

Eric Findlay
News Editor

Sara Maley
Features Editor

Jeff Henry
Production Adviser

Liz Horsley
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Ryan Jackson
Sports Editor

Ivori Johnson
Opinion Editor

Erin Barnes
Chief Photographer

Editorial Policy

The Talon is produced by the students of Avila College's Journalism Practicum classes and other student contributors. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of *The Talon* staff or the trustees, administration, faculty, or staff of the college. *The Talon* encourages letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and must include the writer's signature, name, address, and telephone number for verification. Letters can be mailed to: *The Talon* Editor, Avila College, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, Mo. 64145, or may also be submitted via e-mail at Talon@mail.avila.edu. Please keep letters to 500 words or less. *The Talon* reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language.